

The Solution Mining Research Institute (SMRI) Who, What, Why?

Presented to
Pipeline Research and Development
Forum

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www.solutionmining.org



SMRI History

- Brine Cavity Research Group formed in 1959
 - 11 companies
- SMRI, Inc. formed in 1965
- Membership today
 - 44 US - 49 European - 8 other areas
 - 22 brine producers, 33 storage companies, 26 service /consulting companies, 23 consultants/educators/govt labs
 - 1 regulator



SMRI Organization

- Four Employees
 - Executive Director
 - Assistant Executive Director
 - European Coordinator
 - Research Coordinator
- Annual budget ~ \$250,000



SMRI Mission

- Sponsor and fund research
- Hold technical meetings
- Conduct technical classes
- Maintain literature file
- Participate in rule promulgation



SMRI Research

- 135 research projects completed
- Research plan posted on website
- Typical research accomplishments
 - Solution mining software
 - Well testing guidelines
- Organizational change in 1999
 - Research Coordinator hired
 - Research Plan developed



SMRI Technical Classes

- Eight hour class with ~ 10 lectures
- Contemporary Class Topics – e.g.:
 - Solution mining
 - Well drilling
 - Mechanical integrity testing
 - Rock mechanics
 - Subsidence
 - Bedded salt cavern storage



SMRI Participation in Rule Development

- Kansas
 - Cavern Storage Rule
 - Solution Mining Rule
- Texas
 - Cavern Waste Disposal Rule
- Louisiana
 - Cavern Waste Disposal Rule
- Michigan
 - Solution Mining Rule



Project Cofunding Partners

- Members
 - e.g., Gaz de France, ICI, Akzo,
- Government Agencies
 - e.g., DOE Fossil Fuels
- Trade Organizations
 - e.g., Gas Technology Institute

